

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN**



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**  
**June 10, 2004**

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**Government Reform to Evaluate Contracting**  
**Progress and Challenges in Rebuilding of Iraq**  
*Committee's Third Look at Enormous Task of Reconstruction*

**What: Government Reform Committee oversight hearing:**  
**"Unprecedented Challenges: Contracting and the Rebuilding of Iraq"**

**When: TUESDAY, June 15, 2004, 11:00 a.m.**

**Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**

**Background:**

The many U.S. government agencies, military personnel, and civilian contractors working to rebuild and improve conditions in Iraq face enormous challenges and obstacles -- making this effort unlike any other attempted by the United States.

The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan of 2004 provide more than \$20 billion in funding for initiatives and projects for the rebuilding of postwar Iraq. Many federal departments and agencies have awarded contracts for the sustainment and reconstruction efforts. Many of these contracts are in place and performance is ongoing.

In October 2003 and March 2004, the Committee held hearings on coalition efforts to rebuild Iraq and the contracting process. In addition, Chairman Tom Davis has twice led congressional delegations to Iraq to observe reconstruction efforts and to gain a better understanding of the vast network of government agencies and contractors who are performing the critical work on the ground.

For this hearing, the Committee will hear from representatives of the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Defense Contracting Audit Agency, and the General Accounting Office. The witnesses will be able to give the Committee a progress report in terms of the contracting process as well as discuss the challenges still facing those involved in the reconstruction effort.

There is no question that each of these entities is working in an extremely challenging environment. Every day brings progress, yet there are still major obstacles facing our military, government civilians and contractors. Serious security concerns persist, and the simple necessities of life like water and electricity are at best sporadically available. So it is no surprise that our normal acquisition support and oversight resources are sorely stretched. The Committee is interested in the efforts made to manage, oversee, and coordinate acquisition activities to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent effectively and efficiently in this difficult wartime atmosphere.

The Committee will focus on the largest of the contracting efforts, such as the Army's Logistical Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and Operation Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO). The Committee anticipates learning how the efforts that are in place are working to ensure the integrity of the contracting process and the challenges of maintaining this integrity in a wartime atmosphere.

## **WITNESSES**

**Honorable David Walker, Comptroller General, General Accounting Office**

**Mr. William Reed, Director, Defense Contract Audit Agency**

**General Paul Kern, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command**

**Ms. Ernestine (Tina) Ballard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement)**

**Brigadier General Robert Crear, Commander, Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

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